

Appl. No. : 10/675,589
Filed : September 30, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A method of introducing fluid to a wound site of a patient, comprising the steps of:

providing a guide needle within an introducer conduit;

piercing the skin of the patient with the guide needle;

advancing the guide needle through the patient's tissue to a wound site;

removing the guide needle from within the introducer conduit, while leaving a distal end of the introducer conduit in the wound site;

providing a catheter comprising an elongated tube having a plurality of exit holes along the length thereof and a tubular porous membrane concentrically enclosed within said tube, wherein said tubular porous membrane is constructed from a material that permits fluid flow through pores within the material;

threading the catheter through the introducer conduit;

removing the introducer conduit from the patient while leaving the infusion catheter in place in the wound site of the patient; and

introducing fluid to the wound site through the infusion catheter.

19. (New) The method of Claim 18, further including the step of peeling the introducer conduit off of the infusion catheter.

20. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the tubular porous membrane is configured so that a fluid flowing through said catheter will pass through the walls of the tubular porous membrane.

21. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein fluid flowing within said catheter will pass through the tubular porous membrane and exit said catheter by flowing through the exit holes.

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22. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the tube and the porous membrane are substantially flexible.

23. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the exit holes are provided around the circumference of the catheter.

24. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein an outer surface of the porous membrane contacts an inner surface of the tube along a section of the catheter including the exit holes.

25. (New) A kit for the delivery of a fluid to a wound site of a patient, comprising:

a fluid pump;

a length of tubing securable to said pump;

a catheter securable to said length of tubing, said catheter including an infusion section comprising a plurality of fluid exit holes, said exit holes increasing in diameter from a proximal end of said infusion section toward a distal end of said infusion section; and

a peelable introducer needle comprising a lumen configured to receive said catheter;

wherein said pump, said length of tubing, said catheter and said introducer needle are provided together in a sterile package.

26. (New) The kit of Claim 25, wherein said length of tubing is bonded to said fluid pump and said catheter as an integral unit.

27. (New) A kit for the delivery of a fluid to a wound site of a patient, comprising:

a fluid pump;

a length of tubing securable to said pump;

a catheter securable to said length of tubing, said catheter comprising an elongated tube having an infusion section, said infusion section comprising a plurality of fluid exit holes and a fluid permeable, tubular porous membrane extending along said infusion section, wherein fluid within a lumen of said catheter must pass through said porous membrane before exiting said catheter; and

a peelable introducer needle comprising a lumen configured to receive said catheter;

wherein said pump, said length of tubing, said catheter and said introducer needle are provided together in a sterile package.

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28. (New) The kit of Claim 27, wherein said length of tubing is bonded to said fluid pump and said catheter as an integral unit.

29. (New) The kit of Claim 27, wherein said porous membrane is enclosed within said elongated tube.

30. (New) The kit of Claim 29, wherein said porous membrane contacts said elongated tube along a length of said infusion section.

31. (New) The kit of Claim 27, wherein said porous membrane is external of said elongated tube and a fluid within a lumen of said catheter passes through said exit holes before passing through said porous membrane.

32. (New) An assembly, comprising:

a fluid pump;

a length of tubing integrally connected to said pump;

a catheter integrally connected to said length of tubing; and

a peelable introducer needle comprising a lumen configured to receive said catheter.